

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF OPTOMETRISTS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

PAUL HADLEY, O.D.
License No. 0A2987

FINAL ORDER
OF DISCIPLINE

TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Optometry upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is an optometrist in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On April 26, 2000 respondent entered into a Consent Order entered by the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor of the State of New Jersey indicating that respondent committed acts which violated N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4. Specifically, the respondent on November 10, 1997 submitted an altered ophthalmology claim (#711350549) to Metlife, for patient Marvin Stone to read a treatment date of December 1, 1997, the date that Mr. Stone was eligible for benefits with Metlife. Respondent consented to pay a civil administrative penalty of \$1500.00. (Copy of Consent order and attachments annexed hereto and made a part hereof)

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The above administrative action provides grounds for the suspension of his license to practice optometry in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(k) in that respondent has been the subject of an order imposing penalties for a violation of N.J.S.A. 17:33A-4.

2. The Board finds that the respondent's conduct of altering a submission to an insurance carrier for services rendered to a patient constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b) and, therefore, provides ground for disciplinary action.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline suspending respondent's license to practice optometry in New Jersey was entered on August 29, 2000 and a copy served on respondent. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor. The respondent submitted on September 5, 2000 a letter to the Board for its consideration. The submission included payment in full of the civil penalty.

Respondent's submissions were reviewed by the Board, and the Board determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as respondent did not dispute the Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this ~~30th~~ day of October, 2000,

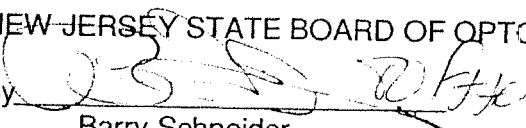
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent is hereby publicly reprimanded for altering a submission to an insurance carrier for professional services rendered an action that constitutes professional misconduct by an optometrist.

2. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) for his professional misconduct. The amount shall be remitted by means of a check or money order, payable to the New Jersey Board of Optometrists and sent to the Board at 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, P.O. Box 45012, Newark, New Jersey, 07101 no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the receipt of this order. The Board acknowledges that it received payment in full on or about September 5, 2000.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

By


Barry Schneider
Board President